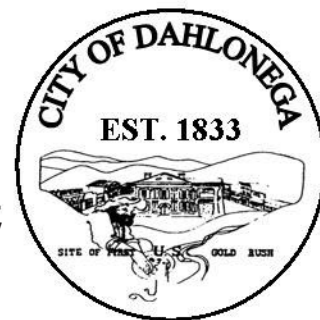


# City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

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This newsletter is a collaborative project of the city of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County, designed to help citizens stay informed. Editor: Lee Ann Roy, Independent Writer

## City Digging (with) New Grant Money

Major improvements to Dahlonega's aging sewerage system are getting underway, thanks to approval of a \$280,000

Appalachian Regional Commission grant in September. The city had been waiting to learn whether it would get the funds before starting the work. This latest award joins a \$500,000 federal/state Employment Incentive Program grant previously approved. With \$780,000 in grant monies earmarked for this project, the city's portion of the total \$954,000 cost will be a more manageable \$174,000. The infrastructure system improvements and the grants to help pay for them are tied to the recent expansion of Timken, a major Dahlonega employer, and will benefit many other citizens served by the same sewer line. The project will increase the size and capacity of a force main between Timken and Barlow Road and a trunk main between Morrison Moore Parkway and the wastewater treatment plant on Mechanicsville Road. Completion is expected this winter.



## Divers Slow the Flow

Two 10-inch openings near the base of the Yahoola Dam are designed to let water flow *out* of the reservoir and downstream into Yahoola Creek at least at the same rate the Yahoola's water upstream is flowing *into* the reservoir. That's how it's supposed to work, according to the state mandated Reservoir Management Plan. The design has served the lake well—at least until this year's severe drought. As the drought wore on, less and less water flowed into the reservoir from Yahoola Creek, while the same minimum amount of water flowed out. With no way to slow the outflow in response to the drought, the lake level dropped sharply. The solution: A commercial dive team installed a valve on one of the two orifices so release of water can be adjusted for conditions. As agreed upon in the Reservoir Management Plan, the city managed the project and the city and county will share the cost.



## Small Meeting Spending Adds Up

Meetings and conferences don't have to be huge to have big economic impact, says Dahlonega Better Hometown Manager Joel Cordle. A recent two-day meeting in Dahlonega of 25 Better Hometown/Main Street managers from across the state proves his point. Joel asked the conference guests to tally their actual expenditures in Dahlonega. The total for their short stay: \$4,000. Why not suggest Dahlonega for your next company or organization gathering?



## Reap Benefits of Local Fall Harvest

Area farmers are harvesting fall vegetables, and folks who appreciate fresh, home-grown produce at good prices can reap the benefits. The Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market will continue to open its doors—or its tailgates, anyway—Tuesdays and Saturdays through October. The market is still at Hancock Park, but look for it a few steps from its prior location due to construction on North Park St. Hours are 7am to 3pm or until everything is sold. WIC Farmers Market coupons are accepted.



There's plenty of free parking, and a trip to the local Farmers Market is a great excuse to head into town to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of autumn in Dahlonega. The Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market is sponsored by the City of Dahlonega's Better Hometown Program.



## Hancock Park: On Second Thought...

Ever since high winds caused the fall of its centerpiece pavilion, Hancock Park has been the subject of much public debate. What should it look like? What should it be used for? How much "hardscape" should there be in relation to the green space left? Should it be home—permanent or otherwise—to an ice skating rink? After re-evaluating initial development plans that included a large multi-purpose structure with permanent ice rink infrastructure, City Council members decided to seek more public input through a citizens committee before proceeding. In the meantime, the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce will use the park, re-graded and hydro seeded, for a temporary ice skating attraction again this winter.

## Dahlonega Excellence Recognized

Dahlonega once again—for the third consecutive year—achieved annual accreditation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a national Main Street City.

The city received an award from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the success of its downtown development program. As a certified Main Street community, Dahlonega follows a comprehensive



approach developed by the National Trust. It's based on a locally driven management strategy focused on physical improvement of buildings and public spaces, aggressive promotion and image building

and economic development of the downtown area. Communities that earn and maintain Main Street status receive valuable state support in the form of consultation, design direction and technical assistance.

## Nov. 6 Election: Got the Picture?

City Council elections will be held Nov. 6 from 7am to 7pm at the Lumpkin County Parks & Recreation Community Center next to City Hall. all. Advance voting will be held at Dahlonega City Hall the prior week, Oct. 29 through Nov. 2, from 8:30am to 4:30pm daily. Council Posts 4, 5 and 6 expire in December; Post 4, now held by Michael Clemons, is contested. John P. Webb qualified to run for the seat.



Remember: Government-issued photo identification is now required to vote. Don't have that picture ID? Getting one is easy and free at the Registrar's Office in the Lumpkin County courthouse. For details call 706-864-6279.

# City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

## Waterworks:

The Dahlonega City Council recently passed a bond resolution authorizing the city staff and the bond team to move forward with the issuance of water/sewer revenue bonds for construction of the new \$22 million water treatment plant and distribution system. The total bond issue will be approximately \$26 million, structured for payback over 30 years. Of course, the money anticipated from the SPLOST passed last year—up to \$4.8 million—will be applied to the balance, as will any federal funding the city may be able to secure.



## GEFA Loan Turns Up the Pressure

Construction of seven new water lines in the city's water system will improve flows and water pressure, especially important for fire protection. The \$1.5 million upgrade will be made possible through a Georgia Fund loan approved recently by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. GEFA, a state agency providing low interest water and wastewater loans to local governments, will finance the cost of the entire project. Dahlonega will pay 4.4 percent interest on the 20-year loan. City manager Bill Lewis says the city has worked hard to make sure it would qualify for the low-interest money when it was needed, explaining that increases in water and sewer rates in recent years to bring them in line with state-required ratios were a major factor in the city's ability to qualify for the credit and borrow money for the improvements.

## All Roads Lead to Dahlonega

The Dahlonega City Council has passed a resolution under which the city will accept parts of state routes 9, 52 and 60 (from Mt. Hope Cemetery, the Madeleine Anthony gateway park and the Grove Street traffic light) leading in to, and including, Dahlonega's Public Square. There are some formalities to be completed by the DOT before the transfer becomes official. By the time the city officially acquires the roads, they all will have been resurfaced within the past year. Safety and signage improvements envisioned by city officials and suggested in the new streetscape master plan could be implemented as early as next spring.



## Coming Soon: Public Meetings for Master Plan

Public meetings will help consultants shape a 10-year master plan focused on preservation, economic development and design for Dahlonega's historic Public Square, central business district and surrounding streets, says Dahlonega's Better Hometown manager Joel Cordle. The result of detailed analysis and "abundant" public input from all walks of life in the local area, the plan will strive to expand the commercial interior city while protecting the downtown's historical and cultural assets and preserving the city's character. It will stimulate private business investment in the city, improve pedestrian safety and encourage foot traffic between the Public Square, central business district and surrounding residential areas. The plan will be a guidebook for maintaining and improving the appearance of streetscape and landscape features, and it will boost economic development by promoting pedestrian shopping and spending and encouraging local residents to walk, jog and gather in the downtown area. Watch for announcements of the upcoming public meetings in *The Dahlonega Nugget*, and help shape the city's future.



## Corridor Overlay Approved

As growth continues along Dahlonega's main traffic corridors, developers and builders will know exactly what their projects should look like with the city's new "corridor overlay." The city has adopted the new standards—a set of ordinances that spell out design requirements for construction along main routes in town—and named a committee of citizens to oversee the program. Once they receive the training they need to carry out their mission, the ordinances will go into effect. Developers and builders will learn of the new standards as they go through the city's regular permitting process. The ordinances were developed with guidance from the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute and Alliance for Quality Growth and input from local residents, followed by scrutiny and careful revision by council members, city staff and legal counsel. The standards will prevent unattractive "hodgepodge" development often seen along city corridors and help Dahlonega preserve its charm and appeal.



## Code:

**Professional** Between the professional look of their new uniforms and a new electric "bubble car" they get around in, Dahlonega code enforcement officers Pam Teal and Stacy Jarrard are turning heads around the Public Square. Of course, that's part of the idea. "The code enforcement officers provide a stronger law enforcement presence and greater visibility downtown," says city manager Bill Lewis. "Code enforcement—city wide—is still their primary job," he says, "but they are also extra sets of eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Office. Feedback from downtown has been overwhelmingly positive."

## How May We Be of Service?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

## City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor  
Michael Clemons  
Guy Laboa  
Gerald Lord  
Sam Norton  
Terry Peters  
Bill Scott

Bill Lewis, City Manager

## Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at [www.cityofdahlonega.com](http://www.cityofdahlonega.com).

**City Council:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

**Planning/Zoning Commission:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

**Historic Preservation Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

**Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9am--City Hall

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